RAJYA SABHA

Monday July 29, 1991/Sravana 7, 1913 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*201. [The questioner (Shri N. E. Balaram) was absent. for answer, *vide col 35 infra.*]

Poor coal supply to Soda-ash units

*202. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled "Soda ash units threaten to halve production" which appeared in the 'Business' and 'Political Observer' dated the 11th July, 1991 indicating that soda ash units located in Saurashtra accounting for 94 per cent of country's output valued at Rs. 4400 crores would be partially shut down due to shortage of coal and hard coke affecting the output of the chemical industry where soda ash is the principal input;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that coal supply to soda ash units is severely affected due to the lower priority on allocation of coal to these units vis-a-vis power houses;

(c) if so, whether Government would revise the priority schedule as soda ash production curtailment would affect production in down stream chemical, dye stuffs detergent and pharmaceautical sector; and

(d) if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Soda ash units in Gujarat are linked by rail to Korea-Rewa fields of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) for supply of coal to their captive plants. In view of higher demand of coal from consumers, a target of loading of 2000 wagons per day was fixed for Korea-Rewa fields of which 1618 wagons were allotted to core sectors and remaining 382 were allotted to other consumers including these units in Gujarat. Since there was some shortfall in loading and the instructions provided for meeting the requirements of core sector consumers on priority, supplies to other consumers including these units in Gujarat were affected.

(c) and (d) The loading in Korea-Rewa fields has since improved. Further, instructions have been issued that SECL will load at least four rakes every day for consumers other than core setcor. Coal companies have been advised that they should satisfy at least 50 per cent of the requirements of other consumers by rail or by road.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: I am looking at the statement, and so it might take a moment for me. Sir, there are very contradictory things. I think in this context there are some data which indicate — and I am particularly referring to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals; the hon. Minister also happens to be sitting here, which says — that for the year 1989-90, the share of chemical industry in the nation's gross indsutrial output is 40 per cent compared to 1970-71. The same report says that exports of chemicals agro-chemicals, dye-stuffs were projected to increase from Rs. 60 crore in 1983-84 to Rs. 1300 crores in 1989-90 Now, by denying the coal, the impact is, there is a kind of a feeling of *deja vu* that 26 years back also the Coal Minister and the Minister for Railways continued to give the same kind of answers, when the coal was not available to this industry which contributes to industrial growth and contributes to exports apart from employment generation. What specific steps has the Minister taken? What he has said is, if I may respectfully

submit, highly unsatisfatcory. The substantive point in his reply is that coal companies have been advised that they should saisfy at least 50 per cent of the requirements of other consumers by rail or road. How would that make this industry function? May I also know from the hon. Minister whether he is in a position to see that coal does reach not to the extent of 50 per cent but 100 per cent for the reason that it is also a priority sector?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I have admitted that as of now, the policy has been to meet the requirements of the core sector first and if there is anything left, then it could be supplied to non-core sector. I found on assuming this office that it was not a fair decision. Therefore, on the 18th, I reviewed the whole thing and I have issued instructions that requirements of non-core sector should be met at least to the extent of 50 per cent to start with and to achieve that along with rakes from other coal-fields, four rakes of coal should be despatched everyday from Korea-Rewa sector. I do not say that this will meet the requirement of the industry. What I have said is that it will go a long way to meet their requirements and I assure the hon. Member, through you, that we will try to improve the position.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, it is very baffling for an ordinary person like me when the core sector does not include anything which leads to export and industrial growth The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister need to lay a very great stress on it. And, I don't think anybody would disagree, because of the balance of payments position. This industry which is going ahead in a large way to earn foreign exchange is not in the core setcor. Will the hon Minister tell us what is the definition of the core sector? Why does it appear to be in contradiction with the national policies announced by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister? Sir there is a newspaper report which brings out a lot of data and I hope the Minister would have read.

About 94 per cent of the country's total output is in Saurashtra. A large number of people would be rendered jobless — it says about 9.7 crore people. I think that must be a printing mistake. My radical friends — radical in Indian terms, not in Soviet terms — would rise in revolt. I would also equally rise in revolt to that tremendous impact on economy about which we are talking. Would he look at it and mention what is the meaning of core setcor? Why export-based industry is not in the core sector? Why employment creation is not in the core sector? Secondly,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long are you going to take?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: If you permit me, I shall ask one more question. Let him answer this.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, as of now, the core sector includes power, steel and cement.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Are you denying the exports as part of the core sector? It may go on record that it is denied. May I know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the Sunday Mail of yesterday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is the Minister of Coal.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: But he is part of the Council of Ministers. The policy of the Government is his policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the question should be with regard to the particular portfolio.

SHRI VIREN J SHAH: Yesterday's *Sunday Mail* carried a news item on 'Baffling stock of coal supplies', on this very matter which I raiesd just now. 24 MPs have submitted a memorandum to the Prime

Minster on this very aspect of soda ash and coal supply and in that, they said that there will be a total closure and that there is a huge pithead-stock of 42 million tons. If that is so, why is it that the coal is not made available? I don't think you will stop only at attacking the railways. There are many other reports about the actual stock declared and the actual stock really available. Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the memorandum submitted by 24 MPs to the Prime Minister on this very aspect and if so, what action has been taken?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: As far as the memorandum signed by the hon. Members is concerned, I am not aware of that as this has not come to me as yet. But I have been reading in the newspapers and I am getting a number of telegrams every day regarding the problems of the non-core sector. It is on the basis of these letters and telegrams, we have revised the policy, of meeting the requirements of the non-core sector upto 50 per cent. As of now, the Chemical Industry was having only 39 per cent of the requirements. I have personally issued instructions that, from 18th onwards, they should get at least 50 per cent. I admit that it is not enough. But to start with, it is an improvement

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, जिस वक्त कोयले के अभाव में गुजरात के कल-कारखाने बंद हो रहे थे उसी वक्त बिहार में कोयले का स्टाक इतना ज्यादा था कि ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति : वह अभी कहा है उन्होंने ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सुनिये महोदय, इतना ज्यादा था कि उसमें आग लग रही थी और बरबाद हो रहा था । तो मैंने मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित किया था कि आप रांची जा रहे हैं तो आप उसको देख लीजिये, इन्होंने देखा भी होगा । इसलिये मैं इस संबंध में दो सप्लीमेंट्री... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति : दो सप्लीमेंट्री पूछेंगे—ए, बी ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हां, सप्लीमेंट्री ए, बी । पहला यह कि क्या सरकार यह व्यवस्था करेगी कि समुद्र के जरिये बिहार से गुजरात कोयला ले जाया जाये । मध्य प्रदेश से या दूसरी ऐसी जगहों से गुजरात रेल द्वारा कोयला ढोने में बहुत कास्ट होती है, समुद्र के जरिये से आप गुजरात को पहुंचा दें तो शायद कम खर्च पड़े ।

समुद्र के जरिए से आप गुजरात को पहुंचा दें क्योंकि जब गुजरात वाले चीन से कोयला मंगाते हैं 4000 रुपए प्रति टन के हिसाब से, तब तो हम उनको केवल 2000 रुपए प्रति टन में ही दे सकते हैं । तो क्या आप समुद्र के जरिए उसको भेजने का प्रबंध करेंगे और क्या आप यह भी जांच करेंगे कि कास्ट किसमें ज्यादा आती है, समुद्र के जरिए भेजने में या ट्रेन के जरिए भेजने में ? क्या आप इन दोनों बिंदुओं पर प्रकाश डालेंगे ? अगर मंत्री महोदय जलते हुए कोयले को देखकर आए हों तो माननीय सदस्यों को बता दें कि इससे कितना नुकसान हो रहा है ?

श्री सभापति : तो क्या आप बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश के पोर्ट से गुजरात में कोयला भेजेंगे ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र जे० शाह : मध्य प्रदेश को अभी तक पोर्ट नहीं मिला है सर ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I visited Ranchi last week. Before I went to Ranchi, I had occasion to have a discusion with the hon. Member. The hon. Member gave me a lot of good suggestions. He wanted me to go to certain areas and see particular things there. I have strictly followed his advice. I went to those areas which he suggested. But before coming to a final conclusion on the

functioning of the Coal India Limited as a whole, I need to visit more areas.

As far as the other point made by the hon. Member is concerned, co-ordination between Coal, Railways and Transport, we are doing exactly that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The hon. Minister has not answered my question, whether he can send coal by ship, by sea. Which is cost-effective? Sending by rail from M. P. coalfields or sending by sea to Gujarat because Gujarat....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will discuss it with the Minister of Surface Transport.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The Railway, Minister, the Transport Minister and myself, the three of us, will sit together.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister just now said that cement is in the core sector. I, therefore, take it that there is no cut in supply to the cement industry; particularly, those industries which do not require wogons. I would also like to know, what is the actual shortfall in relation to requirement of coal in the country. What plans the Government is having to increase the production to meet this demand and by when?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Coal is lying at the pitheads. They have higher production.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Coal is not supplied even to the cement industry. The Minister knows about it.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: When I said that our policy is to meet first the requirement of the core sector,, I did not mean that we have met their entire requirement. There is shortfall. I must admit. As far as the stock is concerned, it is not 42 million tonnes. It is 3 million tonnes. We have to improve a lot our transport system. We are looking into that.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: What is the percentage? How much of the demand from the core sector is being met? He has not replied to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about soda ash.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: But he gave a reply. On the basis of his reply, I have asked my supplementary. You ask the Minister. Why did he mention about the core sector? He said that cement is in the core sector. It is on record. You ask him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not mean that you can ask any question. If he has the information, he can give it. Otherwise not.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I do not have the figures in regard to the cement industry. I can furnish it to the hon. Member later on.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Is it a fact that the per worker coal production in the country is the lowest in the world? It is 0.85 tonnes, but the expenditure is Rs. 104. In China,, the per worker coal production is 4.2 tonnes and the expenditure is Rs 24. What is the Government going to do to increase the production per worker and bring about efficiency in the collieries?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Yes, Sir.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: What are you going to do to increase it?

SHRI P. N. SANGMA: He asked; 'Is the per-worker coal production in the country the lowest in the world'. I said 'Yes'. I have admitted.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: But what are you going to do to increase it?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: After admitting it, he cannot sit down.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, there is absolute need to improve productivity. I do admit that, but I have not had much of time to go into all aspects of the working of the Ministry. I am still trying to acquaint myself with the work. Increase in productivity will certainly receive priority on my agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

कोयल कारो जल-विद्युत परियोजना के निष्पादन में विलम्ब

*203. **श्री चतुरानन मिश्र :†**
श्री राम अवधेश सिंह :

क्या **विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा** स्रोत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 710 मेगावाट की महत्वपूर्ण कोयल कारो जल-विद्युत परियोजना में विलम्ब हो गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं तथा इस परियोजना पर काम कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

विद्युत और गैर पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) यद्यपि कोयल कारो जल-विद्युत परियोजना को केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र में क्रियान्वित किए जाने का निर्णय जून, 1981 में लिया गया था परन्तु भूमि के अधिग्रहण के विरुद्ध स्थानीय लोगों के प्रतिरोध और स्थानीय लोगों को उनकी भूमि से बेदखल किए जाने के विरुद्ध उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा दिए गए स्थगन आदेश के कारण परियोजना का निर्माण कार्य आरम्भ नहीं किया जा सका । उच्चतम न्यायालय ने स्थानीय लोगों द्वारा दायर रिट याचिका को खारिज कर दिया है और उक्त स्थगन आदेश को निरस्त कर दिया है । परियोजना के संबंध में धन संबंधी स्वीकृति जुलाई, 1990 में प्राप्त हुई थी । परियोजना की लागत को अद्यतन कर दिया गया है और नए सिरे से निवेश संबंधी निर्णय हेतु कार्यवाही की जा रही है । परियोजना का निर्माण-कार्य लगभग 8 वर्ष में पूरा कर लिए जाने की संभावना है ।

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री चतुरानन मिश्र द्वारा पूछा गया ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, जिस क्षेत्र में यह कोयल कारो प्रोजेक्ट है वह बिहार का आदिवासी क्षेत्र है और आप जानते हैं कि आदिवासी क्षेत्र बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ और गरीब क्षेत्र है । अगर पन बिजली की व्यवस्था हो जाए तो उनकी स्थिति काफी अच्छी हो सकती है क्योंकि थर्मल पावर से जो बिजली बनती है उसकी कास्ट ज्यादा आती है । फिर भी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने यह योजना 1981 में शुरू की थी और आज 1991 हो गया । 10 वर्ष चले गए हैं लेकिन यह आरंभ नहीं हुई जो बहुत ही दुख का विषय है । हमारे पास सूचना है कि प्लानिंग कमीशन ने इसको रिजेक्ट कर दिया है । यह सूचना सही है या नहीं, यह मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करें ।

उत्तर में आपने कहा है कि यह प्रोजेक्ट 8 साल में पूरा हो जाएगा । तो उस 8 साल में से पहला साल कब होगा, यह भी मंत्री महोदय बताएं ।

श्री सभापति : कब शुरू होगा और कब पूरा होगा ?

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : सभापति महोदय, मैं आदरणीय साथी को बताना चाहता हूं कि इस प्रोजेक्ट का टेक्नो-इकानामिक क्लियरेंस मिल चुका है । 1981 में यह योजना शुरू होने वाली थी तो स्थानीय लोगों ने बहुत बड़ा आंदोलन किया और दो साल तक यह आंदोलन चलता रहा ।

श्री सभापति : उसमें चतुरानन जी तो शामिल थे ।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : उस समय बिहार